

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE.

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EDITORIAL.

House Plan Competition.

AWARDS.

First prize, John Campbell, Victoria Co., Ont.

Second prize, Wellington F. Justin, Halton Co., Ont.

Third prize, Wilbert W. Revington, Middlesex Co., Ont.

In the July 1st and subsequent issues of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, three prizes were offered for plans, photos or drawings and written descriptions of farmhouses, at a cost ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000. Twenty-nine competitors entered in the competition. The points taken into consideration in making the above awards were: the "lay out" of the house, or the general merit and completeness of the plans as such; provision for domestic convenience and comfort, arrangements for heating, sanitation, etc., with as attractive an appearance as practicable within the limits of cost suggested; the completeness of the written description and the clearness of photo or drawing of exterior from which an engraving could be made, as required in our published announcement of conditions. The competition was open during the months of July, August and September. We publish in this issue engravings and description of the house of Mr. John Campbell, accorded first place, the two others to appear subsequently. We also publish two other articles upon this important subject, all of which, we trust, may be of service to our readers. Our thanks are due to the many who took part in the competition, thus bringing before our attention many excellent and carefully-prepared plans.

Winter Stock Feeding.

In the course of the ever-revolving cycles of the seasons, grim winter is again approaching, and though the late autumn months of the present year have been exceptionally favorable to the farmers whose supply of fodder in many sections, owing to protracted summer drought, is none too large, and in many cases had to be drawn upon earlier than usual, the time has fully come when all stock should be fed some nutritious food in addition to what they derive from the grass, which, though possibly still affording a fairly good bite, has not now the same nutritive properties that it possessed earlier in the season. With a view to economy of feed, the temptation is generally strong to leave the stock to shift for themselves in the fields as long as they can find a living. This is in most cases a false economy, as in addition to the failing quality of the pasturage, the long, cold nights and damp lying will seriously affect the animals, which, while seemingly retaining their outward condition, will suffer a serious loss of internal fat, which it will take considerable time and feed in the stall to replace. This is a most important point, especially to the feeder of beef cattle which it is intended to get ready for the market in the early spring, and is one he cannot afford to overlook, as it entails a loss of time, food, and money. There is a loss of all these while the animals are going back in condition, and again while the condition is being recovered, as a fortnight's full feeding will not suffice to restore the loss sustained by a week of hardship on the pastures.

As a matter of course, on all well-regulated farms the milking cows have for several weeks been stabled at night and fed a liberal ration in addition to what they have found in the fields during the day. It is now generally understood that milk secretion shrinks rapidly when the cows are left out in cold winds or on frosty nights, and that it is almost, if not quite, impossible to restore the normal flow even by extra and persistent feeding. It is true economy to take up all young stock and give them shelter at night and on stormy days by the end of November, and to gradually accustom them to winter feed by giving them a little hay and succu-

lent food, such as turnips or ensilage, or a light ration of bran and oats to keep up their condition and prevent shrinkage. The scarcity of roots this year on many farms may be made an excuse for delay in commencing to feed them, but it will be wiser to begin early to feed a few each day, if it be only half of the quantity usually considered liberal feeding, as when animals are put on dry feed alone, they are liable to constipation, impaction and other disorders of the digestive organs, which may lead to serious trouble and loss, which succulent food may prevent by keeping all the organs in regular working order. Where roots and ensilage are not in store, the best substitute is bran and oil cake, a very small portion of which will serve to keep up condition and promote healthfulness.

Working horses which have had regular exercise and full feed while plowing and teaming during the fall, are apt to be left standing in the stable when the frost stops the plows, and often their full rations continued, which is an obvious mistake and is liable to lead to swollen limbs and blood ailments, which may prove a serious loss if not guarded against by lowering the grain feed and turning out for a few hours each day for exercise.

The sheep are usually the last of the stock housed, being, as a rule, left to find for themselves till snow covers the grass so deeply that they cannot, even by scratching, get a living; but they will pay liberally for protection and more generous treatment by holding their flesh and increasing the growth of wool, and in view of this should have shelter from cold rains and drifting storms. Where shelter is not practicable, a daily ration of oats and bran, or other concentrated food, given in troughs in the field, will greatly help to maintain flesh and thrift. The thoughtful and provident shepherd will not neglect at this season to examine the sheep for evidences of skin disease, or if ticks and lice are present, and make timely preparations for combating these insidious enemies of the health of the flock. Experience has taught that it is wise to treat for these troubles at the beginning of winter, whether the indications are present or not, as prevention is better than cure, and the labor and expenses will be repaid a hundred-fold in the thrift of the flock and the weight and quality of fleece produced; while if it is neglected, and scab or vermin find a footing towards lambing time, treatment may be found inconvenient, if not impossible, and weary months of suffering by the sheep and of shame by the shepherd must be endured before relief can come by way of the shears and the dipping tank, with a depreciated and discreditable flock as the inevitable outcome.

The Winter Fat Stock Shows.

"The Smithfield of Canada" and the Ontario Provincial Fat Stock, Dairy and Dressed Poultry Show, the greatest institutions of their kind in the Dominion, will be held next month, the former under the auspices of the Guelph Fat Stock Club and Poultry Association, in the City of Guelph, December 6th to 8th, and the latter under the auspices of the Dominion Cattle, Sheep and Swine Breeders' Association and the Western Fair Association, in the City of London, December 11th to 15th, and all indications point to their being even more interesting than any of the list of signally successful shows under the same auspices, which have preceded them.

These winter shows are the only purely agricultural exhibitions of prominence held in the Dominion, and being controlled and directed by practical farmers, stock-breeders and dairymen, are calculated in their design and purpose for furnishing a liberal education in the science and art of breeding and feeding farm stock, which few farmers can afford to miss.

The earlier exhibitions serve a good purpose in stimulating a healthy rivalry, by offering prizes for breeding stock of all classes, and the season selected for holding them is the most suitable for the

accommodation of the crowds of people principally on pleasure bent, who thus avail themselves of the opportunity for a harvest-home holiday, but the throng is not conducive to a careful inspection and study of types, and the numerous counter-attractions distract attention from the practical features of the show, and consequently the lessons learned of a helpful kind are proportionately limited.

The winter show is a special function of interest to every farmer, in that it is designed to encourage the raising of the class of animals best calculated to furnish the kind of meat and milk products which our best markets demand. There has been a distinct advance along this line in the last decade. The fat stock show of former days provided an exhibition largely of low-priced lard and tallow in living packages of unwieldy size and grotesque form—moving mountains of stale fat stock fed far past the period of profitable production, which figured for prizes in successive shows, finding a meager market as butcher-shop holiday prodigies, and for the most part an ignoble finale in the rendering tank.

All this has been changed. The old and over-fed ox, the plethoric pig, and the shuffling fat sheep, is seen no more in the modern fat stock show, but instead the handy-sized baby beef bullock, the firm-fleshed yearling mutton sheep, and the ideal bacon hog, whose average life is limited to about half a year, and whose well-nourished, lean flesh tempts the appetite of the epicure, and is found on the breakfast table of nobility. And all these, ready for the end of their being, have been brought to this point of perfection within the period of time when weight is gained at the most rapid rate, at the least cost, and of the best quality, when intelligent methods of feeding with well-balanced rations are adopted. To our mind there is no other place where the results of good breeding and good feeding can be so readily seen and so satisfactorily studied as at these fat stock shows, where comparisons may be made and conclusions drawn which can hardly fail to be helpful to all who are willing to learn.

The block test and the exhibition of the dressed carcasses is a logical accompaniment of the fat stock show, and we are pleased to note that this feature, which has formerly been limited to the class for bacon hogs, has this year been extended at the Provincial Show to include sheep, and we trust it will not be long before cattle are brought under the same category. One of the most intensely interesting incidents of the show at Brantford, Ont., last year was the display of dressed carcasses on the platform at the joint meeting of breeders, and the explanations of the expert judges who made the awards, and the discussion by breeders and feeders present which followed.

The milking test of dairy cows is a department of the show which is growing in favor, and which, we believe, will be more extensive and interesting this year than on any previous occasion. The judging of cows by conformation and the other theoretical indications for milk and butter production at the fall fairs is very well in its place as a factor in fixing approved types, but the scales and the butter-fat test, under equitable rules, constitute the only absolutely reliable and trustworthy tribunal for settling the question of individual superiority.

The dressed poultry department will, for the first time in this connection, be given the prominence which, as one of the most profitable branches of farming, it deserves. Expert poultrymen will at the latter show explain the different appliances on exhibition and the best methods of preparing poultry for the export as well as for the home trade.

Not the least important feature of the programme for the week at London is the meeting arranged for the discussion of subjects of interest, at which able and competent men will deliver addresses sure to be full of food for reflection, while the interchange of thought and suggestion cannot fail to be mutually beneficial. Lower railway fares render it practicable for many to avail themselves of the benefit of this outing, and we hope to see a larger attendance this year than at former gatherings of this kind.